

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## SAGA OF THE ST ROCH MOUNTIES MAKE FIRST VOYAGE ROUND NORTH AMERICA

THE *St Roch*, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police motor-vessel of only 80 tons, already famous as the first to make the grim North-West Passage in both directions, has now added to her renown by becoming the first ship to have sailed right round North America. This 104-foot-long ship recently berthed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, at the end of a voyage from Vancouver by way of the Panama Canal.

This recent voyage of 41 days was a pleasure trip in comparison with the 28-month Arctic voyage the *St Roch* made from Vancouver to Halifax in the early 1940s, when she was the first to sail the North-West Passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Or again when two years later she made her return voyage from East to West and covered the 7295 miles in three months, though she had on board fuel and stores for two years.

### Larsen of the Mounties

The man in command on both those hazardous journeys was Sub-Inspector H. A. Larsen, of the Mounties. He and his men thus made voyages which had defeated some 150 expeditions.

The Arctic Ocean is no place for a summer holiday. Its summer weather specialises in fog, "sometimes black fog, sometimes bright fog which the sun shone through but failed to clear. I never saw fog like it," wrote Henry Larsen in the RCMP's official publication.

Or there is snow and sleet and, just for a change, gales, like the one the *St Roch* escaped when in harbour at Tuktoyaktuk—a gale that drove the icy seas to tear out of the shore small islands of peaty land embedded with willows which "swirled about in the rampaging waters", that exposed the old blue ice in the subsoil and piled up hills of ice.

Ice was the explorers' chief foe—icebergs and icefloes through which they had to find lanes.

### Holiday For Eskimos

On leaving Halifax in July 1944 they sailed along the coasts of Labrador and Baffin Island where, at Pond Inlet, they took on board an Eskimo family of a man, his wife, his mother, five children, and 17 dogs! The dogs, however, would have been useful indeed if Larsen's party had been obliged to winter in the Arctic, and even more useful would have been the man in hunting, fishing, and building ice-houses; but the women agreed to do the crew's mending in return for their summer holiday cruise!

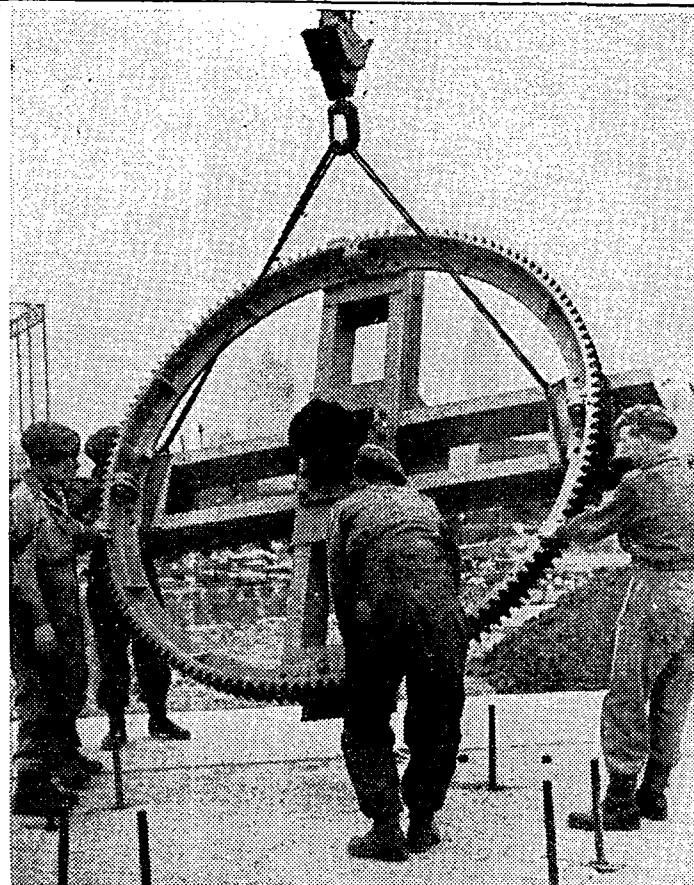
These incredibly tough Eskimos refused to live in a cabin and rigged their tent on top of the deckhouse, the dogs adopting one of the ship's boats.

The Eskimos had strange things to tell the White Men. On Devon Island Larsen's men discovered the ruins of ancient dwellings made of stones and bones, and the Eskimos told them

that these had been inhabited by a race of giants called Tunits, with whom, they said, their own ancestors had fought bloody battles, finally exterminating the giants while they slept. The truth about this mysterious race has yet to be revealed.

In Erebus Bay on Beachey Island and similar places, said Henry Larsen, he felt they were on hallowed ground, for this was where former famous explorers had trod, and at Erebus Bay they saw the cenotaph erected in memory of Sir John Franklin. They saw, too, remains of a yacht left by Sir John Ross in the hope that it would be found by Franklin.

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## THAMES-SIDE WORKERS

ABOVE, Army engineers preparing to build the Bailey bridge which is to span the Thames for the Festival of Britain. Through the base of this derrick being slung into position can be faintly seen the Houses of Parliament upstream. BELOW, a workman erecting scaffolding round the Victoria Tower of the Houses of Parliament in preparation for restoration of the stonework. Across the river is St Thomas's Hospital.



## SNAKES ALOFT

At Durban airport certain packages are handled very gingerly. They are marked "Danger: live snakes"; and within are mambas, pythons, cobras, and boomslangs, ready for the Atlantic crossing to New York.

Snakes are bad sea travellers—they get sick and die. But now that aeroplanes do the journey in 48 hours the mortality has been brought down to about 15 per cent.

And the freight charges? "So much a foot" for pythons, mambas, and boomslangs, which may be anything from 10 to 30 feet in length; the smaller reptiles—cobras and puff-adders—are charged at a flat rate.

And the price of snakes? About £3 average, in the form of much-needed dollars.

## They Make a Change

CANNED rattlesnake is now available as food in America. This sounds a strange dish, but not more so than some of the items on the menu at an exclusive Manhattan club—roasted armadillo, Australian kangaroo, porcupine, muskrat, Alaskan caribou ("to special order only"), and ostrich eggs! One diner remarked that the waiter would probably faint if asked for a boiled egg!

## TRUE AS STEEL

THE revival of archery has brought Sheffield a new industry—the manufacture of durable alloy arrows. The new industry is a dollar-earner, for in America the popularity of archery is increasing even more rapidly than in this country.

## Elephants the Motorists Will Never Forget

MANY hunters who have travelled through the African veld have been chased by elephants, but few can have had a stranger experience than Mr Leslie Skeats and Mr R. Merrett.

They set out from Chipinga in a small English car to reach the Hippo Mines in the valley of the Lower Sabi River. But they lost their way, and when darkness fell found themselves in the heart of the elephant country with no one to guide them.

At length some native travellers appeared on the scene and directed them through the dry bed of the Sabi River and across the veld along a cattle path where the grass grew ten feet high.

### "Hut" in the Dark

Then misfortune overtook the two motorists. They hit a tree-trunk, which smashed their headlamps. They were now in pitch darkness, except for a pocket-torch, so they decided to push on to the mines on foot.

When they had proceeded some distance, Mr Skeats said: "Thank goodness here's a native hut."

But his companion warned: "It's the back of an elephant. Look out!"

So the two men retreated to their car and locked themselves in!

They were settling down to a more or less comfortable night's rest when something happened—it was the elephant's turn to bump into them.

"Shoo," said Mr Merrett, as he flashed his electric torch through the car's windows on the enormous bulk that loomed over them. "Go home, we don't want you."

At that moment the elephant wrapped its trunk around the chromium-plated bumper and began to drag the car through the tall grass, and then into the middle of the herd.

### Fun For the Elephants!

Instead of one curious trunk prodding the car from outside there were now at least a dozen. The car rocked on its wheels. To the men inside the car it was far from being funny, but the elephants apparently thought it great fun. For they started a sort of ball game with the car, using their trunks to push and pull the vehicle about.

When the first flush of dawn came the elephants tired of their odd plaything and cleared off.

Very much shaken, the men got out of their car and inspected the damage—a few dents in the metal work, a twisted bumper, and a luggage-rack that wouldn't open. But that was all, and soon their little English car was zooming for home after their night of bone-shaking ordeal.



## Weighting the Scales For Peace

IN a recent speech to his fellow countrymen Mr Acheson, the U.S. Secretary of State, gave a clear account of the results of the conferences he had attended in London last month.

The main object of those talks by the Foreign Ministers of the free countries was how they could work together to prevent a Third World War. All agreed that there was no immediate threat of such a war, but that its possibility must not be overlooked.

The American people are realising more and more that the actions they are taking now and the world-wide efforts they make in the immediate future can turn the scales in these critical times.

Very significant, indeed, of America's attitude to this world problem was the meeting together the other day of the two Houses of Congress to hear from his own lips Mr Acheson's report. His masterly speech was deemed so important that it was both broadcast and televised.

### Making History

Even more important, the joint session marked a revolution in the constitutional practice of the U.S. in that for the first time in the 175 years of Congress a member of the Government conceded the right of question and answer in a public session.

Mr Acheson told Congress that two significant facts had impressed him at his meetings with Mr Bevin, M. Schuman, and the members of the North Atlantic Council. The first was that the North Atlantic community was emerging as a political reality of the greatest importance. The second was the new vigour in the life and leadership of Europe as revealed by the reception given to the Schuman iron and steel plan and to the European payments union.

The fundamental purpose of the meetings he had attended, declared Mr Acheson, was "the preservation of peace—not the fragile, temporary peace which comes from appeasement; not the hopeless peace of submission, but the peace which free peoples, sure of the rightness of their purpose, win and maintain by developing their economic and

military strength through the processes of voluntary and continuing co-operation. It is from this strength that our confidence derives, from this co-operation that peace becomes secure."

Since the end of the war, Mr Acheson continued, the 18 West European countries had made great economic and political progress, and had maintained their free institutions, whereas the Soviet Union had devoted much of its resources to military purposes. This dangerous situation called for continued and unified efforts by the free nations.

Economic problems were no longer national, "the co-operative approach is required to meet the cost of defence, to maintain and improve standards of living, and to provide essential assistance to other free nations of the world in their development. A new attitude is required of each of us, for we must work out solutions to these problems which will strengthen the community as a whole and advance the welfare of us all."

### Security Indivisible

In conclusion, Mr Acheson stressed the value of the Mutual Defence Act of 1949 as demonstrating that each country recognised that its own security was no better than the security of the community as a whole. If the people of America now supported and continued to support the measures necessary to make this co-operative venture a success, they would not find wanting a similar response from their friends and allies. "Together we shall make a major contribution to the United Nations, whose Charter remains our basic guide."

## NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

### NEW YOUTH HOSTEL

Rowardennan Lodge, on the banks of Loch Lomond, which was recently acquired for the nation, has been handed over to the Scottish Youth Hostels Association.

The largest ship to be equipped with an anti-rolling device is the new 24,000-ton P & O passenger liner *Chusan*. The device, called *Derry-Brown stabiliser*, consists of fins designed to reduce a roll of 14 degrees to 4 degrees.

Recent statistics of the numbers of European students attending U.S. universities show that first place is taken by Germany with 750—about four times as many as last year. Great Britain with 600 students takes second place, and next come France and Norway, each with 524.



Twelve-year-old Warren Hearnden, of Totland, Isle of Wight, who attends an acting school, is now having his first professional engagement—as Mamillius in Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, at Regent's Park open-air theatre. Here he is with Antony Eustrel (King Leontes).

Malaya, whose Scout troops often include Malays, Tamils, Indians, Chinese, Eurasians, and Europeans, has nearly 26,000 Scouts.

Playing for Wigan in a club cricket match at Chorley, Kenneth Downham, a 15-year-old Wigan Grammar School boy, took five wickets—all clean bowled—with five consecutive balls. But Chorley won the match.

A Russian scientific expedition have discovered the ruins of an ancient city beneath the Caspian Sea. They found almost intact a stone wall which had been built well over 1000 years ago.

Two British experimental jet fighters, the Hawker P 1052 and the Vickers Supermarine P 510, are to make attempts on air speed records this summer. The world speed record of 670 m.p.h. is at present held by an American jet fighter.

### Healthier Colonies

A recently-published survey reveals striking improvements in health in the Colonies. Singapore now claims to be the healthiest seaport in the East. Last year its death-rate was as low as that of England and Wales, while Cyprus had one of the lowest death-rates in the world.

The Canadian Government has just completed the farthest north school and nursing station in the British Empire. It is at the Eskimo settlement of Coppermine, inside the Arctic circle.

The Canadian Post Office are now conducting courses for young people to teach them how to use the mails properly. It is stated that older persons are "hopelessly ingrained in their bad habits of sending mail." In Britain last year more than 3,000,000 wrongly-addressed letters had to be sent to returned-letter branches.

### OPERATION FRIENDSHIP

More than 300 teachers and students from European countries are to visit America under a plan sponsored by the International Research Fund. It is known as Operation Friendship.

Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man, has established a mountain rescue squad which is claimed to be the first in the British Isles formed at a civil airport.

The National Trust have purchased Ashness Farm and Woods along the eastern shore of Derwentwater. The land includes the lakeside strip and fields enclosing Barrow Bay and the steep woods stretching from Barrow House almost to Lodore.

A trophy is to be awarded annually to the British racing driver who scores the highest number of points in foreign events. It was presented to the British Racing Drivers' Club by the late Richard Seaman, who won it in 1936.

### Houses to View

Plans for televising some of Britain's finest country houses and gardens this summer and next are being made by the BBC and the National Trust.

An osprey was recently seen diving from a height of 90 feet for fish in Loweswater. It is forty years since the visit of an osprey was recorded in the Lake District.

Siam has contributed more than 1,000,000 pounds of rice to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund.

From next month ships entering Sunderland harbour in fogs will be guided by radar and radio telephony.

### BOON TO PATIENTS

New York doctors who have subscribed to a short-wave radio service can be summoned in an emergency wherever they may be. Each subscriber carries a small receiver weighing six ounces.

Philip Mickman, the Ossett, Yorkshire, schoolboy who swam the Channel last year, intends this year to attempt the crossing in the reverse direction—from Dover to France.

Archaeologists excavating in Castle Park, Colchester, believe that a Roman forum is buried there.

### One Good Turn

Two years ago Scouts of Wandsworth, Putney, and Barnes were given permission to hold a rally on Wimbledon Common. Now they are showing their gratitude in a practical way by spending week-ends during the summer felling unsafe trees and branches and carting away fallen timber.

## Return to Israel

A RECENT report indicates an amazing flow of immigrants into Israel since it became a State. In the last two years it is stated that about 400,000 immigrants have entered, compared with 465,000 during the whole of the twenty years of the Palestine Mandate.

During the Mandate, three-quarters of the immigrants came from Europe, less than a tenth from Asia, and less than one per cent from Africa. In the last two years those from Asia, mostly from the Middle East, have risen from 44,000 to 85,000, and from Africa, mostly from Libya and the French Dependencies, from 4000 to 57,000. Those from Europe fell from 376,000 under the Mandate to 228,000.

Some 44,000 Jews from the Yemen were brought to Israel by air under the "magic carpet" operation, and 10,000 are now being similarly transported from Iraq by way of Cyprus.

## LEARNING THEIR TRADE

A NEW opportunity for young shop assistants to learn more about their trades, and about business in general, is provided in the three-year course of part-time study which has been arranged by the Ministry of Education and the Retail Distributive Trade Conference.

Ambitious young shop-workers will be keen to obtain the certificate at the end of the course, which is for those who have already had full-time education to the age of 16 years. Students will study their own particular trades, and other subjects such as English, Retailers' Accounts, Organisation of Retail Distribution, Display, Descriptive Economics. At present the trades concerned are Drapery (textiles), Women's and Children's Wear, Men's and Boys' Outfitting, Footwear, Furniture and Fittings, Hardware and Ironmongery, Jewellery, Bookselling.

Hours of instruction will be about six a week, either evening or part-time day study, or a combination of both.

## Memorial to a Gallant Horse

A HORSE'S memorial being damaged through thoughtless people trying to climb up it sounds strange, but it has happened to the 35-foot obelisk on Farley Down, Hants, which was erected in the 18th century to a remarkable horse which had the appropriate name of Beware Chalk Pit. In 1733 Mr Paulet St John Paulet was out hunting on this horse when he suddenly came upon a 25-foot deep chalk pit. It was too late to pull up, so he let his horse take the leap. Horse and rider landed safely and, a year later, the same horse won a race on Worthy Down. When the gallant horse died he was buried in a Bronze Age barrow on Farley Down and, later, this pointed obelisk was erected.

Let us hope the landmark, from which there are magnificent views, will be repaired and beside the inscription describing Beware Chalk Pit's exploits another placed asking picnickers not to climb it.

## SAGA OF THE ST ROCH

Continued from page 1

Among other relics of bygone explorers they found a store left on Dealey Island in 1853 by Captain H. Kellett. In the store was a tin of "Ox-Cheek" Soup made by a London manufacturer in 1850. The directions for opening it were: "Take a hammer and chisel and cut out one end." Presumably tin-openers had not yet been invented.

They battled on westwards against the ice and reached snow-covered Herschel Island on September 18. Now they had a chance of getting to Vancouver without having to winter in the Arctic, so they had to say goodbye to their Eskimo friends. There were empty huts on the island and they put the Eskimos ashore with plenty of supplies to keep them until the *St Roch* could return and take them to a place whence they could travel home if they wished.

For the *St Roch* was originally built in 1928 for work among the Eskimos, a mission which has been carried on by the Mounties ever since.

## Motswalle wa Bana

FOR the first time native children in South Africa are to have a magazine of their own, published in their own language.

This language is Sesuto, sometimes called Sotho, and it is very like the language spoken in Basutoland. The title of the new magazine is to be *Motswalle wa Bana*, which means *Friend of the Child*. The magazine is to be published in Johannesburg every fortnight.

## The Things That Matter

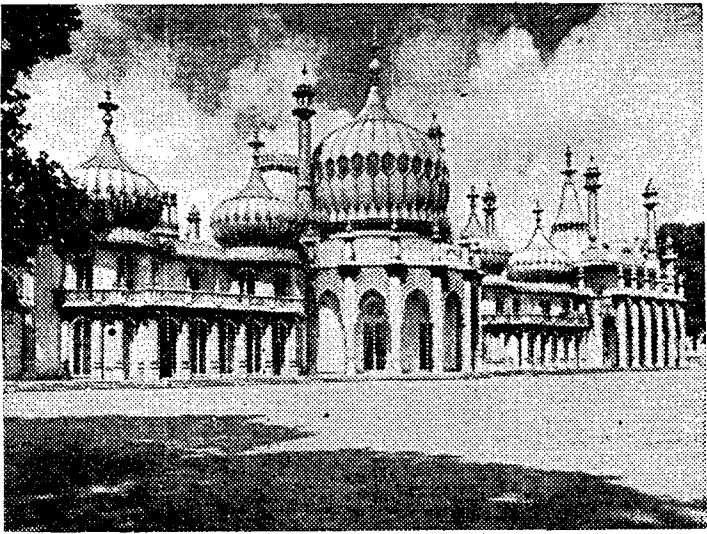
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Thus CN readers are well-informed concerning the things that really matter.

WHY not bring your friends into the ever-widening circle of the well-informed by introducing them to the CN?

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### Domes of Brighton Pavilion

A hundred years ago the townspeople of Brighton saved the Royal Pavilion from demolition by buying it from the Crown. Originally built in 1787, it was rebuilt in oriental style by John Nash in Regency times. The centenary is being celebrated.

### THE SKIN ON THE CHURCH DOOR

A CHURCH with a door that has been swinging on its hinges for over 900 years, and to which the skin of a raiding Dane was once nailed, is in danger, and £1100 is needed for its repair.

It is one of the most ancient village churches in England, St Botolph's, Hadstock, Essex, a parish of about 326 people.

St Botolph's, it is thought, was built to celebrate the victory of King Canute over Edmund Ironside in 1016 at Assandun (Ashdon) near by. Much of its structure dates from Saxon times, and there are Roman bricks in its walls.

Its wooden door, within a 15th-century porch, is believed to be the same one hung there by a Saxon carpenter. Under one of its three iron straps was found a piece of human skin, a relic of the barbarous practice of nailing a sacrilegious marauder's skin to the church door. The grim relic is now in Saffron Walden Museum.

### NEW YORK'S NEW TUNNEL

A NEW road tunnel has been opened between New York and Brooklyn which is nearly 1½ miles long and is therefore the second longest road tunnel in the world. The longest is the 2½-mile-long Mersey Tunnel between Liverpool and Birkenhead, which was opened in 1934.

The New York tunnel has two tubes, however, and runs from the southern end of Manhattan Island, which is the centre of New York, via Governor's Island in Upper Bay to Brooklyn on Long Island. It cost 80,000,000 dollars to construct, and can take 2800 vehicles an hour; 10,000,000 vehicles are expected to use it during its first year.

### PAINTING HER WAY

DESPITE currency difficulties, Miss Kathleen Primmer, a London artist, will be able to pay for all her four months' holiday in Finland. She is to paint portraits for hospitality. She already has ten commissions and goes first to a veterinary surgeon at Turnea.

### ALL-ROUNDER'S BENEFIT

IN 1929, James Sims, then a tall, slim young man of 25, played his first County match for Middlesex. In 1946 he was granted a well-earned benefit match, against Sussex. Unfortunately, rain ruined the game; but next week-end he is to take a second benefit at Lord's—in the match against Yorkshire—and every follower of first-class cricket will wish him sunshine this time.

During his 21 years in first-class cricket, Jim Sims has taken more than 1300 wickets with his skilful leg-spinners and googlies, and has also scored over 10,000 runs. He has played in four Test matches for England—against Australia, South Africa, and India, and has toured in Australia, New Zealand, and the Argentine with representative sides.

### WIND-BLOWN TRAINS

THE Swiss-built gas-turbine locomotive engine which now hauls trains between Paddington and Plymouth, furnishes another chapter in the marvellous story of land transport in Britain, where railways had their origin.

Very amusing some of the early railway schemes seem to us today; for instance, sails were among the devices for furnishing railways with power. The first loads of coal on railways were drawn by horses, but towards the end of the 17th century Sir Humphry Mackworth, who had great coal interests, thought he would speed up transport by hoisting sails to drive his trains. He seems to have forgotten that any vehicle so equipped must, in the absence of wind, rest like a ship becalmed.

### DRAKE'S WOOD

ONE of the original woods used by Sir Francis Drake in his historic game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe when the Spanish Armada was sighted, was used to open a new bowling green at Levens near Kendal.

It was bowled down the green by its present owner, Mr Robert Bagot of Levens Hall. The wood weighs 33 ounces and is valued at several hundred pounds.

### SCHOOL AND SHIP

CHILDREN at Fallowfield Central School, Manchester, had a pleasant surprise when a stuffed giant land-tortoise and a double coconut arrived a few days ago. Both were gifts from a Merchant Navy skipper, Capt L. A. Bunn, who brought them from the Seychelles, a group of islands in the Indian Ocean.

Fallowfield School has enjoyed an association with the captain for some time through the British Ship Adoption Society—a principal aim of which is to bring ships and schools closer together.

### BIRD WATCHERS ON LADY ISLE

THE establishment of a bird sanctuary on Lady Isle in the Firth of Clyde, off Troon, is described in the Annual Report for 1949 of The Scottish Society for the Protection of Wild Birds.

A warden's post was built there, and considerable difficulties were overcome in transporting to the islet workmen and building materials in open motor-boats.

Some interesting bird visitors to the island have been noted, and a documentary colour film has been made.

### LITTLE SHIP'S BIG CRUISE

THE frigate *HMS Bigbury Bay* which two years ago joined the American and West Indies Squadron has returned to Portsmouth after steaming over 48,000 miles!

She has voyaged in a large area of the world's navigable waters, and on her homeward voyage rounded off her adventures by rescuing eight United States marines and three Bermudians from an open boat.

### ECHO OF A FORGOTTEN WRECK

WHILE rummaging through some old documents in the Cape archives the other day Professor I. R. Kirby found some papers relating to the wreck of an East Indian man off the Cape coast in 1782. They were written by the only survivor of a party that set out on the overland trek from the Buffalo River to Table Mountain, and form a day-to-day account of incredible dangers and difficulties.

On Sunday, August 4, 1782 two months after leaving Ceylon, the *Grosvenor* ran into a storm off the wild coast between Port St Johns and Port Edward. When night fell the ship ran on the rocky coast, but all except 16 of the passengers reached shore safely.

The survivors were faced by a 600-mile trek to Table Bay

through wild country never before penetrated by Europeans. The deep swift rivers were difficult to ford; lions, elephants, and hippos abounded and took their toll of the hapless trekkers; many of the native tribes were unfriendly, and refused food and guidance.

The survivors divided themselves into three parties to make the trek to civilisation more easily, and the writer of the diary was the only member of his party to reach Cape Town.

The papers throw such important light on the whereabouts of the *Grosvenor* that a retired civil engineer is to make an attempt to locate the wreck; where she lies under turbulent seas off East London. And there is £5,000,000 in the holds of the East Indiaman to spur him on in his efforts.

### COLLECTION TIME

WHEN the postman came to collect the mail at Thicketwood, a hamlet in West Wiltshire, he found the pillar-box occupied by a swarm of bees; so before he collected the letters he collected the local beekeeper, who in turn collected the bees—30,000 of them!

### ANCIENT SCOTS CHURCH

AN appeal has been launched for the renovation of the ancient church of Insh in Badenoch, Inverness-shire.

The spot on which the church stands has been sacred from time immemorial, and the church itself is the only one in Scotland in which Christian worship has been carried on continuously from the seventh century to the present day. It was dedicated to St Adamnan in 690.

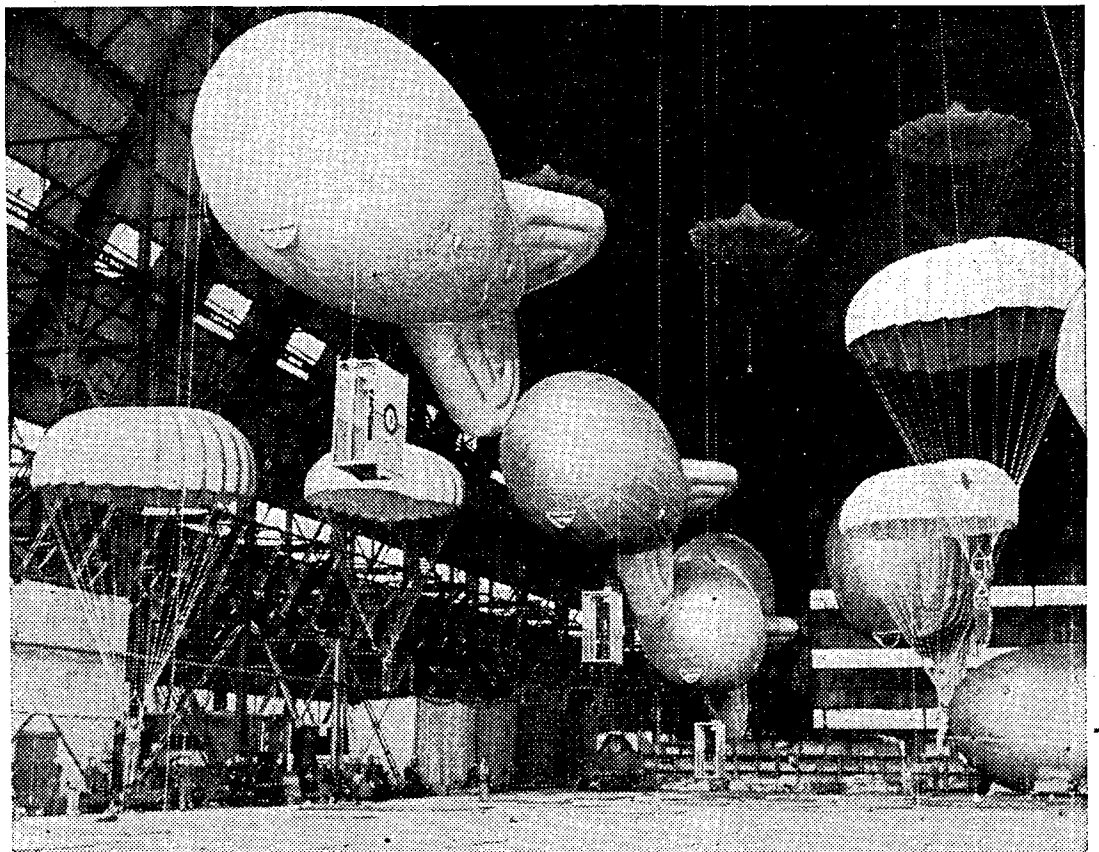
### MERMAN AT THE PROW

IT is rare nowadays to see a ship with a beautiful carved figure-head, such as old-time ship-builders and sailors took pride in. One has been fitted, however, to the new Norwegian motor-tanker *Bartok* recently built at Aberdeen.

The old figureheads were hand-carved from wood; this one depicting a merman, is of cast bronze and has been designed by a leading Norwegian sculptor.

### YOUNG RESOURCE

WHEN twelve-year-old Robert Pittila, of Wallington, Surrey, saw a lorry turn over after swerving to avoid a car, he had the presence of mind to take the car number. He had no pencil, so he wrote the number on a window-sill with a piece of chocolate.



### Parachute Descents Indoors

One of the attractions of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London, is a parachute training display by the R.A.F. Here four of the members of the team are making controlled jumps in a hangar at an R.A.F. station.



## Rajah Enjoys Life Behind Iron Bars

THE other day eight-year-old Rajah, the Zoo's senior riding elephant, was moved from his stall at the sanatorium (which he had so outgrown that he cleared the doorway only by an inch!) to a specially-built one at the Mappin Terraces. And there is no doubt about it—no one approved the move more than Rajah. For at the sanatorium, which is a quarantine station inaccessible to the public, he saw no one but his keepers.

In fact, his new Mappin Terrace stall, as Rajah is finding to his entire satisfaction, has some decided advantages. Not the least of them is the fact that it has barred ventilation windows. And bars are no deterrent to an elephant. Every morning, whenever Rajah hears the footsteps of passing visitors, out through the grille comes his questing trunk, waving hopefully in all directions!

His cleverness seldom goes unrewarded. Almost every visitor just naturally pops a titbit into the trunk-tip, which is promptly withdrawn into the murky interior as the unseen elephant samples his "prize." I watched him in action as he collected biscuit after biscuit from a party of schoolgirls, whom their leader found very hard to move on. Rajah was doing a wonderfully brisk trade that morning!

Officials, however, are slightly perturbed over the elephant's tactics. For, with so many "Brumas fans" flocking to the terraces, there is a possibility that Rajah may get so much food that he will be too lazy to go out onto the "ride" at midday.

THE Children's Zoo now has the biggest canine guard ever seen in the enclosure. He is 18-months-old Zenda—or Zaza,

as some call him—a Pyrenean mountain dog sent up the other day from Devon by a friend of the superintendent's.

Zenda has much to commend him as watch-dog, for he is a good mixer with other animals, yet seems to know he is there to protect them, and he has the grip of a bulldog. He has good looks, too. He stands three feet tall, has a lovely white coat and large, bushy white tail which is never still for a moment when visitors are about! He is, however, most active after dark spending the night "on patrol," as a good watch-dog should.

OF the 60-odd animals over whom Zenda keeps watch and guard, few are at the moment more interesting than the tame grey squirrels, Cromwell and Susie, who share a large cage inside the Exhibition Hall. For the squirrels are "setting up home" very amicably together, though they were only introduced to each other recently. They are using the oddest materials for furnishing their nest—it consists mainly of old socks!

"They seem to like these better than anything, and every time we put one in Cromwell seizes it, drags it forthwith up to their bedroom and stuffs it inside. They must have over half a dozen old socks in there by now!" Miss Pip Viney, the supervisor, told me.

Incidentally, Cromwell has a history which must be unique. When only a week or two old he fell from his tree-top nest in a Sussex wood onto the back of a passing dog, whose owner promptly rescued the squirrel and sent it to the Zoo, where Cromwell was successfully reared on milk from a fountain-pen filler.

## HOW SWIFT IS THE SWIFT?

SCHOOLBOYS and ex-Servicemen were among the 500 watchers who recently took part in a national survey to discover how fast the swift can fly; and their findings appeared to have cost the swift its reputation of being the fastest small bird that comes to Britain.

For at the end of three weeks, during which swifts were timed with stop-watches over 100 yards, paced in fast cars and motorcycles, and released at measured distances from their nests and timed on their return, the highest speeds recorded were only about 30 m.p.h.

Most naturalists would say that swifts are capable of a much greater speed. Gilbert White in *The Natural History of Selborne* estimates a speed of 150 m.p.h. In fact, only the swallow is known to be able to match the speed of the swift. But the

swallow can keep it up for short periods only, while the swift can remain on the wing for 16 hours out of twenty-four. During migration the swift is said to travel at 70 m.p.h., although in making sudden swoops a speed of 106 m.p.h. has been attained. The swallow, too, has been known to achieve 106 m.p.h.

The mystery of the swift's apparent low speed was explained by Mr H. G. Hurrell, a South Devon corn merchant, who organised the watch for the British Trust for Ornithologists. "We know the swift can do better than 30 m.p.h.," he said. And then he pointed out that the swifts had just arrived from South Africa, and it was probably a natural relaxation which made them take it easy after their long flight.

So the swift can still justify its name.

## SPARE LIGHTS ON NEW SHIPS

A new device to prevent mishaps in ships at sea is being installed in three New Zealand Line vessels now under construction on the Clyde and at Leith.

Sudden darkness when a ship's lighting fails is always dangerous, as seamen and passengers may be going up stairways, climbing companionways, or working near moving machinery. To get

rid of this danger, their vessels are being fitted with auxiliary lighting systems which will automatically switch on if the generators fail. Auxiliary lights will be placed near hatches, over machinery, and in engine-rooms and boiler-holds. Special attention will be paid to spaces around furnaces, stairways, and other danger points.



## New Home of Children's Television

Above, the new BBC Television Studio for Children's Hour at Shepherd's Bush. Right, 14-year-old Jennifer Gay, Britain's youngest television announcer, who is to be a guest of the Danish Tourist Association at the Hans Andersen Festival, as a reward for winning a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Dancing.

## Keep Watch For the Colorado Beetle!

THE Colorado beetle has been much in the news of late. As briefly mentioned in last week's C.N., Ostend children have been rewarded with free donkey-rides for collecting Colorado beetles; and the little potato pests have been found in large numbers on beaches in the Channel Islands.

These little black-and-yellow striped beetles were to be found only in the Rocky Mountains of North America a century ago. Then, as potatoes grew more popular, they rapidly increased in number, and advanced as far south as Mexico and far north into Canada.

About 80 years ago Colorado beetles made their first appearance in Britain. They were soon destroyed, and a similar fate has fallen upon others which have reached our shores in more recent years.

Unfortunately, they are now firmly established in parts of the Continent, forming a grim enemy of the potato-grower. Many Colorado beetles spend the winter on the northern coasts of France. From there they recently made their way into the Channel Islands. Some 600 beetles were found on the beaches of Alderney, and more were washed up a few weeks ago on the shores of Guernsey.

More invasions are expected and careful watch is being kept around our shores. Sometimes the beetles arrive with foreign food. Often they cling to any ship moving from Continental ports.

Once established here, they would be a great menace to our farmers. Their black and red larvae are easily overlooked in the vast potato fields of Eastern

England. So serious is the damage they do that our Government have banned imports of potatoes from lands where the Colorado beetle thrives. Special watch is now maintained at our ports where the pest sometimes appears.

If Britain does have an invasion of the pests, then everyone will be expected to look out for them and capture any seen in their own gardens. Anyone finding a Colorado beetle should tell the local police.

## HOW ROSE DAY BEGAN

THROUGHOUT Britain on June 20 artificial wild roses will be on sale on the occasion of Alexandra Day. The first Alexandra Day was June 26, 1912; and it was in honour of the fiftieth year of the late Queen Alexandra's residence in this country.

Since then over four million pounds has been collected for hospitals by the sale of Alexandra roses. Today the needs of the hospitals are to a great extent met by the State, but, as the Lord Mayor of London stated at a recent meeting of the organisers, the need for voluntary help and charity is still widespread. Last year, for instance, over ten thousand pounds was raised to help old people.

From the start most of the flowers have been made at the John Groom Crippleage and Flower Girls' Mission. Here over three hundred cripple girls depend for their livelihood on the making of artificial flowers of all sorts.

That the roses should be so



made is most fitting, for the story really began in the garden of a small house on the outskirts of Copenhagen. Here, an old man established a rose garden of marvellous beauty.

Unwilling to keep this lovely garden all to himself, he invited the aged poor and the crippled to come and sit in his garden. Then he began selling the blossoms from his garden to provide funds whereby his guests might receive the treatment and comfort which so many of them needed.

When Queen Alexandra paid a visit to her native land she heard the story and went to see the old man. So impressed was she by the idea that, on her return to England, she commissioned Miss Christina Beeman, well known as an organiser of appeals on behalf of hospitals, to arrange a Rose Day to be held each year in June. Surely no better month could have been chosen, nor a flower more typically English.



The Children's Newspaper, June 17, 1950

# The Passion Play Among the Mountains

The humble townfolk of Oberammergau, in the Bavarian Alps, are now welcoming visitors from all the world over to that Passion Play which they have been performing over a period of 300 years.

Among the visitors this year are some 500 British Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, whose parents are serving with the Army and the Control Commission for Germany. These fortunate boys and girls will stay in camps erected by themselves near the beautiful Tegern See.

OBERAMMERGAU lies not far away, ringed by snow-capped mountains and almost forgotten during the years between the Plays.

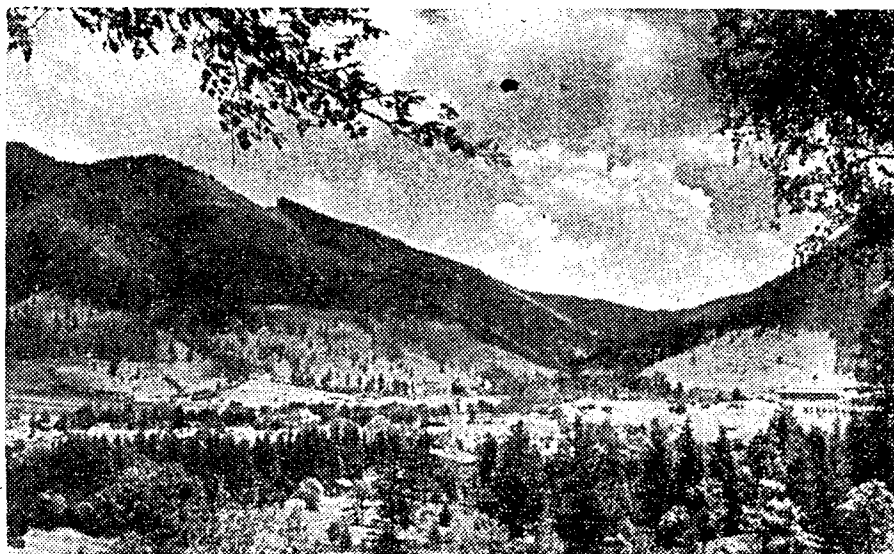
When the dreaded "Black Death" struck the village in 1333, and had claimed over 80 victims, the terrified inhabitants congregated in the tiny Parish Church to plead with God.

They vowed that if the plague stopped they would give a performance every ten years for ever, depicting the Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ. And the Black Death did pass away.

In the following year, the Benedictine Monks organised the Play for the first time, and from 1670 onwards it was enacted every decade, interrupted only by the two World Wars.

As the years went by, tradition grew up around the Passion Play. It developed in scope and grandeur until in 1934, the last performance, it had become so world-famous that more than 73 performances had to be given, each lasting from 8.30 in the morning until nearly 5.30 in the evening.

DURING the year of the Passion Play the villagers permit no amusements or dancing; but



The lovely Alpine valley in which lies the little town of Oberammergau



Annemarie Mayr as Mary and Anton Preisinger as Christ

they bedeck their town with colourful mountain flowers and paint the outside walls of the houses with religious pictures.

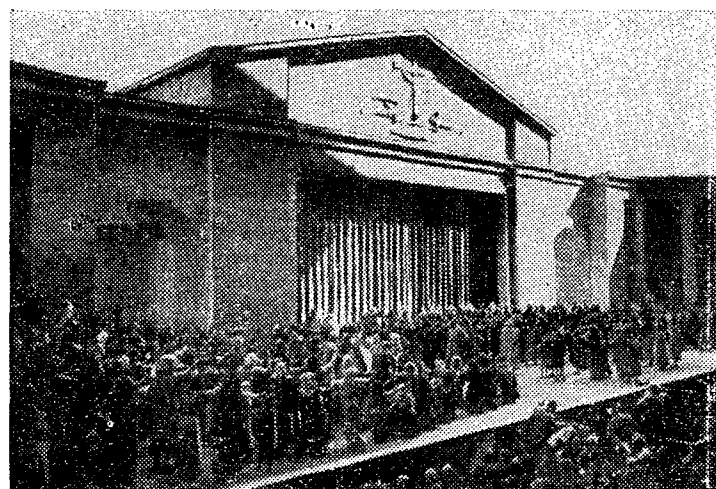
The villagers only are allowed to take part, and they are chosen and allotted their parts by a committee under the Burgomaster and the Parish Priest.

No married woman is permitted to take part, and many a girl has put off her wedding in the hope of being chosen. The menfolk allow their hair and beards to grow naturally, for no wigs are worn.

THE actors and actresses carry on their normal occupations when they are not on the stage. The part of Christ this year is played by Anton Preisinger, who owns the Alte Post inn, where Benedikt Stuckl (Caiaphas) is cook. Martin Magold (St John)



A helping hand for six-year-old Johnny McMahon, an American boy who is taking part in the play



A great crowd in one of the scenes at Oberammergau



Alois Lang as the Prologue Speaker



Hans Schwaighofer as Judas



Melchior Breitsamter as Pilate



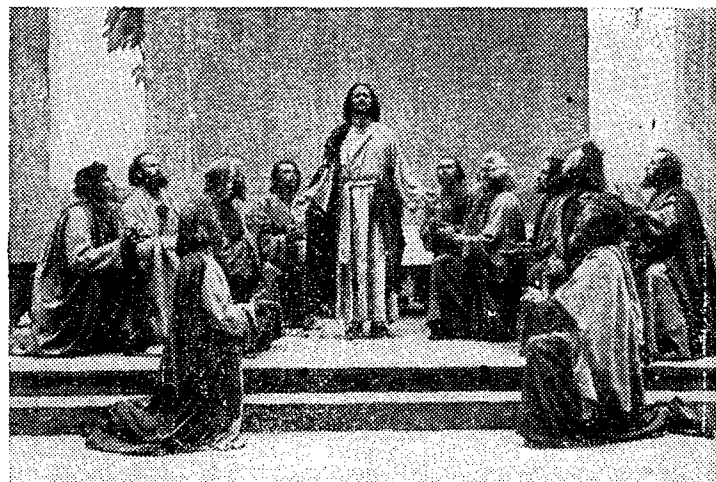
Hugo Rutz as Peter

is a farmer; Melchior Breitsamter (Pontius Pilate) works at a sawmill; Gabriele Cropper (Mary Magdalene) sells groceries in her parents' shop; and Annemarie Mayr (the Virgin Mary) is a student at the local college for carving, the industry which Oberammergau relies on for the support of its people in the years between the Plays.

The actors are so well trained for six months prior to the Play, and take their parts with such deep sincerity, that they give the impression of having become the very characters they portray.

The enormous theatre is enclosed, but the huge stage is open to the sky, its background a ring of rugged mountains that lend an atmosphere of reality to a performance which has been described as a religious service rather than a drama. On occasions, indeed, the Heavens have roared with thunder and flamed with lightning during the scene where Christ is crucified, creating acute emotional stress among the onlookers.

THIS magnificent spectacle always starts with the boom of a cannon, heralding the rising of the curtain and a sudden hush that seems to wrap the amphitheatre, and even the village itself, in a peace of its own until the final scene where Christ ascends into Heaven.



Christ and eleven of his disciples

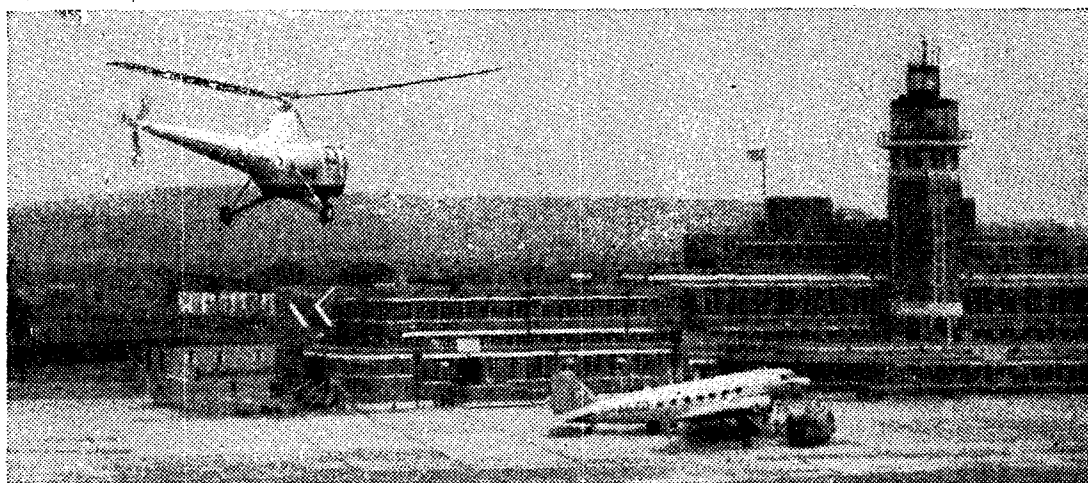


Benedikt Stuckl as Caiaphas



Martin Magold as John





### Helicopter Passenger Service

British European Airways recently opened the world's first regular helicopter passenger service, between Cardiff and Liverpool. Here is a Sikorsky helicopter, which carries three passengers, coming in to land at Speke Airport, Liverpool.

## Welsh League of Youth is 21

WITH the holding of its Annual Eisteddfod competitions at Wrexham recently, the Welsh League of Youth celebrated its 21st year.

Founded by its leader, Sir Ifan ab Owen Edwards, the movement is non-political and non-sectarian, and has stood upon the tenets of love of country and faith in international brotherhood. Every member takes a three-fold promise of loyalty—to Wales, to fellow-men, and to Jesus Christ.

With headquarters at Aberystwyth and a subsidiary office at Swansea, the Welsh League of Youth has branches in every village and hamlet in Wales.

Scattered over the length and breadth of Wales there are a thousand local units with a membership of over 80,000.

The greater part of the League's activities are concerned with the Annual Eisteddfod, held alternatively in North and South Wales. There are also camps to attend in the summer, hostels for winter conferences, and training centres for various arts and crafts.

It is at the Saturday morning

session of the Eisteddfod that the youth of Wales broadcast a message of Peace to the other nations of the world. It is broadcast by the BBC, and it has been relayed by as many as sixty other nations.

Subjects set for competition are in music, drama, elocution, folk-dancing, action songs, physical training, ambulance, literature, history, and the arts and crafts. This comprehensive programme serves as a basis for the cultural activities of the League clubs during the long winter months.

The physical side of the movement finds expression in the Mabolgampau (games) held later in the year at the other end of the Principality to that which has staged the Eisteddfod.

To appear on the Eisteddfod platform a competitor has to appear and win at his or her own club Eisteddfod, then in a district Eisteddfod, then in a county test. Points are awarded at the Senior Eisteddfod for club, district, and county organisations. And the highest number of points in each group carry away the Eisteddfod awards.

## FARM RAIDER

FARMER JONES, who resides at the foot of the famous Cader Idris mountain, where hundreds of Scouts from England camp in the summer, is much troubled by wild animals.

He has seen foxes, otters, badgers, weasels, stoats, and squirrels; and recently he has lost quite a number of hens. Suspecting foxes to be the culprits, he started out to investigate.

Having crossed some fields he found a trail of feathers. Reaching a high wall he stood still, with his well-trained dogs lying down. Within 15 minutes he was surprised to see a pole-cat, and not a fox, top the wall 25 yards away.

The pole-cat is a very beautiful animal and, like human beings, enjoys chickens. It is ferocious and weighs from 15 to 20 lbs, and is very fast. It spits and fights like a tiger. Dogs will not attack at close quarters, knowing of its terrible claws. It lives in crevices on the mountain slopes and appears to be multiplying. When with kittens it is particularly vicious if searching for food, and has been known to kill lambs and drag them away. The pelt makes excellent gloves.

## The Hard Way



Mounted on his 1818 model Hobby Horse, or velocipede, a participant in a Cycling Cavalcade propels himself along, feet on the ground.

## The Editor's Table

### RECONCILIATION

*The Quakers, who throughout their history have worked ceaselessly for peace and humanity, have issued this appeal to men everywhere to overcome their suspicious of one another and to build a true peace:*

IN the face of deepening fear and mutual distrust throughout the world, the Society of Friends (Quakers) is moved to declare good will to all men everywhere. Friends appeal for the avoidance of words and deeds that increase suspicion and ill-feeling, for renewed efforts at understanding, and for positive attempts to build a true peace. They are convinced that reconciliation is possible. They hope that this simple word, translated into many tongues, may itself help to create the new spirit in which the resources of the world will be diverted from warlike purposes and applied to the welfare of mankind.

### THE ENGINEER AND PUBLIC HEALTH

A FURTHER advance in our public health activities will result from the grant recently made by the Rockefeller Foundation to start a course for students of public health engineering. For health and engineering, particularly in the important matter of sanitation, go together.

In order to build up co-operation between the medical and engineering professions in public health undertakings, the Rockefeller grant has been made to two colleges—the Imperial College of Science and Technology, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The course in public health engineering is for post-graduate students, and will last for a year. The first one begins next October under the general supervision of the Professor of Civil Engineering at the Imperial College.

### MR CHRISTIAN'S GARDEN

SOUTHERN AFRICA has lost a great botanist in the death of Mr Harold Basil Christian, in whose famous garden at Enterprise, Southern Rhodesia, is growing almost every kind of tropical aloe. He was a leading authority on tropical African aloes, and experts from many countries came to see his wonderful garden of aloes and African cycads.

The aloe is a plant famed for centuries for its medicinal qualities, and its juice was used by ancient peoples for embalming purposes. Cycads are survivors of a prehistoric group of plants.

Before he died at the age of 79, Mr Christian had given his garden to Southern Rhodesia, and it was declared a national monument. It now becomes his own.

### JUST AN IDEA

*As Barry Cornwall wrote: Half the ills we hoard in our hearts are ills because we hoard them.*

## Cure by Friendship

A YOUNG American pastor and his wife have opened their home to homeless young Germans in a suburb of Stuttgart. It was easy, they said, to give the young men clothes and good meals; that helped them physically but did not really cure the revolt and rebellion that these young men felt against everybody and everything.

The house was built from rubble bricks, and is cheerfully furnished, and the presence of the pastor's wife gives the sense of home to these homeless young men, some of whom have lost their parents. The front door is seldom locked, for young Germans like to come and talk with the young American at all hours. No one is turned away, whenever he comes.

Sometimes, the young American reports, his young Germans think he is doing all this for some sinister motive, and watch his moves with suspicion. But they are gradually coming to see that his friendship is based on a deep foundation—that he serves them because he loves his fellow men.

## SCHOOLS FOR PARROTS

SPEAKING recently of the change from the early days of simple education to the complex education of today, the Archbishop of Canterbury said:

"A hundred years ago the morning lessons consisted entirely of reciting, singing and monotonous; Bible lesson; then the multiplication tables, table of weights and measures; the counties of England and Scotland; and the Kings of England, with the appropriate dates."

Though education is not so simple today, it is an adventure of far greater interest.

## True Liberty

THE only liberty I mean is a liberty connected with order; that not only exists along with order and virtue, but which cannot exist at all without them.

Edmund Burke

## Under the E

PEOPLE in the North of England are shorter than those in the South. But longer coming to London.

ALLOTMENT HOLDERS want a law to stop sheep trespassing. The sheep say "Baa!"

BLUE TITS at Bracknell have nested in a roll of barbed wire. Their offspring should be wiry.

A MAN says he has been a flat hunter for eighteen months. Got tired of looking round.



HATS are too dear, says a housewife. She cannot afford more than half a crown.

## A HUNDRED YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

THE fact that archaeology is not an ancient science is established in a new book, *A Hundred Years of Archaeology*, by Glyn E. Daniel (Duckworth, 21s).

There was, indeed, a Society of Antiquaries founded during the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and Sir Thomas Browne, in the 17th century, could write beautifully of such things as urn-burials. But most of these old antiquarians were very unscientific in their investigations and very rash in the conclusions which they drew from them. Inigo Jones, for example, believed that Stonehenge was a Roman temple, and Dr Johnson was probably not far from the truth when he bluntly declared in the 18th century: "All that is really known of the ancient state of Britain is contained in a few pages. We can know no more than what old writers have told us."

For all practical purposes, says Mr Daniel, scientific archaeology and methodical means of excavation really began during the last hundred years, and in the pioneer attempts by archaeologists Britain has had a great part.

It was General Pitt-Rivers who first put forward the important theory that all material objects gradually developed as the centuries passed and could be arranged in definite sequences according to their type. By following this principle archaeologists were able to lay bare the secrets of vanished civilisations and to reconstruct the lives of men from the Stone Age till modern times.

People used to laugh at General Pitt-Rivers and his odd collection of ancient clothes, boats, looms, weapons, musical instruments, and the like; but he was eventually able to prove that in these objects lay the key to the secrets of the past.

## BYGONE YORK

THE famous cobbled street of a bygone day which fascinates every visitor to the Castle Museum, York, is to be extended. Ten more shop windows of different periods are to be set up, including a sweet-shop, clock shop, and a saddler's. One of the fronts is a 16th-century relic.



## THINGS SAID

THE Russian people are saturated with liberal and moral concepts that must some day assert themselves and lead to the collapse of the present Soviet régime.

*George F. Kennan, Counsellor of the U S State Department*

IF the Commonwealth did nothing more than give the world a lead in establishing a brotherhood of man, irrespective of creed, race, or colour, it would still have made a notable contribution to the cause of human welfare.

*Prime Minister of Pakistan*

THE main aim of the school is discipline, not in the harsh sense. As a community, we must learn to live together and, if necessary, to suffer together, and to be tolerant.

*Head Master of St Edmund's, Canterbury*

## Saying it With Books

THE Lord Mayor of London's National Thanksgiving Fund has been launched to express our gratitude, as a nation, to the generosity of the Dominions and the United States.

The staff of a City insurance firm, however, are saying their own private "thank you" to their colleagues overseas in a unique way.

To carry their gratitude overseas they have chosen miniature libraries which give a comprehensive picture of the British Isles. More than forty authors are represented in each library.

## THE IDEAL

AMONG all the accomplishments of youth there is none preferable to a decent and agreeable behaviour among men, a modest freedom of speech, a soft and elegant manner of address, a graceful and lovely deportment, a cheerful gravity and good humour, with a mind appearing ever serene under the ruffling accidents of human life.

*Isaac Watts*

## Editor's Table

PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If a leg-break often  
means a broken  
wicket



A BOY film star was spotted in a talent contest. But he soon had a wash.

FAT people eat less than thin people on the average. What do they eat on the quiet?

ILL-FITTING shoes make children walk badly. Then their mothers give them socks.

SHY children are sometimes put upon at school. Cheeky ones will take them off.

A LADY has been asked to give her name to a new rose. Will she have to get another one for herself?

## At the Shrine of the Bard

ALL the civilised world acknowledges William Shakespeare as the greatest writer who has ever lived, and a pilgrimage to his home town is the ambition of all who have fallen under the spell of his unique personality. Stratford-on-Avon attracts more and more visitors every year. Shakespeare's birthplace was visited by 135,656 people last year, and of the 56,729 who signed the visitors' book, 16,487 came from overseas.

The Birthplace, in Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, was acquired for the nation by public-spirited persons in 1847, and it is interesting to learn that 100 years ago a popular Victorian playwright, Douglas Jerrold, wrote to *The Times*—which recently reprinted his letter—suggesting that a warden for the Birthplace should be appointed.

At the time Douglas Jerrold wrote this letter no new Poet Laureate had been appointed to take the place of Wordsworth, and Jerrold, famous for his wit, made the startling suggestion that if this post was to be abolished, the grant that went with it—a small one—might be used to pay a keeper of the Birthplace, "a worthy office" he wrote; the warden would be "custos of the hearth of the world's teacher."

His proposal was ignored, however, though it was not until November 19, 1850, that Tennyson was appointed Poet Laureate by Queen Victoria.

THE cottage where Shakespeare was born has long been held for the nation by trustees set up by Act of Parliament, and it has been preserved as far as possible as it was when Shakespeare was born there. The room where he first saw the light, however, has its walls, ceiling, and even its window covered with signatures of visitors, including those of Walter Scott, Izaak Walton, Robert Browning, Thomas Carlyle, and Edmund Kean.

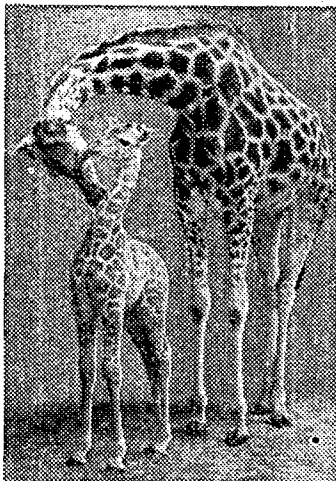
Of the people from other countries who made the pilgrimage there last year, and signed their names in the right place, the visitors' book, were 5919 from the USA, 1372 from Australia, 1059 from France, 920 from Canada, 771 from South Africa, 638 from Denmark, 420 from Germany, 376 from India, 368 from New Zealand, and 78 from China.

RECENTLY, it will be recalled, the King and Queen visited the Birthplace and added their signatures to the famous book.

## YOUNG MAN'S REPLY

THE atrocious crime of being a young man, which the honourable gentleman has with such spirit and decency charged upon me, I shall neither attempt to palliate nor deny; but content myself with wishing that I may be one of those whose follies cease with their youth, and not of those who continue ignorant in spite of age and experience.

*William Pitt*



## Wash Down

Girlie arches her long neck to give a wash and brush up to Sambo, her three-week-old offspring, at Whipsnade Zoo.

## EXPORTING A CHURCH

THE suggestion that a war-damaged church in the City of London should be carefully taken down, stone by stone, transported to Australia and rebuilt in Sydney, is being discussed by civic and ecclesiastical authorities there.

The church is St Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, the site of which has been recommended to be sold by the Bishop of London's Commission. Only the shell of the church remains. It is a Wren church, built in 1677 to replace the one destroyed in the Great Fire. A church has stood on the site since before 1148; Milton was married to his second wife, Katherine Woodcock, in this old church. In the churchyard were buried two fellow-actors of Shakespeare. John Hemminge and Henry Condell, who produced the first folio of Shakespeare's plays.

## Mechanical Hands

How machines can replace man-handling in moving goods, and men can thus be released for more important work, is demonstrated at the National Mechanical Handling Exhibition and Convention which is being held at Olympia, London, until June 17.

It is the world's largest display of labour-aiding equipment, and 170 firms manufacturing machinery of this sort are showing their wares. Machines for lifting, moving, and stacking goods of all kinds are on view; conveyor belts, dumpers and mechanical shovels, aerial ropeways, hoists and pulley blocks, pneumatic handling plants, and many others are shown.

Trade Union members are admitted free on production of their cards, so that they may inspect the kind of equipment they may have to operate.

## TALL TOWER

THE world's largest concrete cooling tower, 341½ feet high, is now under construction at the new Shell oil refinery at Stanlow, near Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. Shaped like a giant milk bottle, it will be able to deal with five million gallons of water every hour when in use. More than 500 tons of steel are being used to reinforce the concrete, and altogether the huge structure will weigh over 20,000 tons.

# Coracle Men of the River Teifi

AN appeal is at present being made on behalf of the coracle men of the River Teifi, in Cardiganshire, against a by-law passed sixteen years ago. This by-law forbids the issue of new licences for the netting of salmon in non-tidal stretches of the river, and if it is not repealed one of Britain's oldest industries will die out.

The coracle which the salmon-fishers use on the Teifi has hardly changed its shape since the Iron Age. Julius Caesar, who found the early Britons using it and had some built after the British model, describes it as a craft with keel and gunwales made of light wood, and the sides of wicker covered with skins.

The coracle of today is substantially the same. It is a shallow, rounded vessel, constructed of plaited ashbands and struts, but with pitch-coated calico stretched over the framework instead of skins. The coracle holds one man and is propelled by a single oar, the fisherman handling the net with his free hand. So frail is the craft that it is easily capsized, and so light that the fisherman can carry it home slung over his back.

## Perilous Journeys

According to a chronicler of the 6th century A.D., the coracle was in general use among the Picts and Scots; he tells us of an amazing long voyage made by one of the companions of St Columba in the North Sea in one of these flimsy vessels. In A.D. 878 three Irish missionaries sailed in a coracle from Ireland to Cornwall, a voyage which took

them seven days and must have been extremely hazardous.

The construction of a coracle is a skilled craft, as Julius Caesar discovered, and the only man who practises it today lives in Cenarth on the Teifi. He learned the age-old craft from his uncle, and still constructs his coracles in much the same way as did his remote ancestors in the early Iron Age; few of his fellow-countrymen could make such a claim about their work.

## Home-Made Nets

It is a tradition among the coracle men of the Teifi that they should make their own nets. These are woven of undressed flax, while the head-ropes are made of unshrinkable horsehair twisted into cords. The net-rings through which the cord passes are composed of the horns of cows sawn into sections with the rough surface smoothed by sand-paper.

The coracle fishermen of the Teifi work in pairs with these nets, and when they are at work on the river there is no more picturesque sight in the world. It would be a thousand pities if it should go the way of so many other ancient crafts—sacrificed in the name of progress.

## Under Water Underground

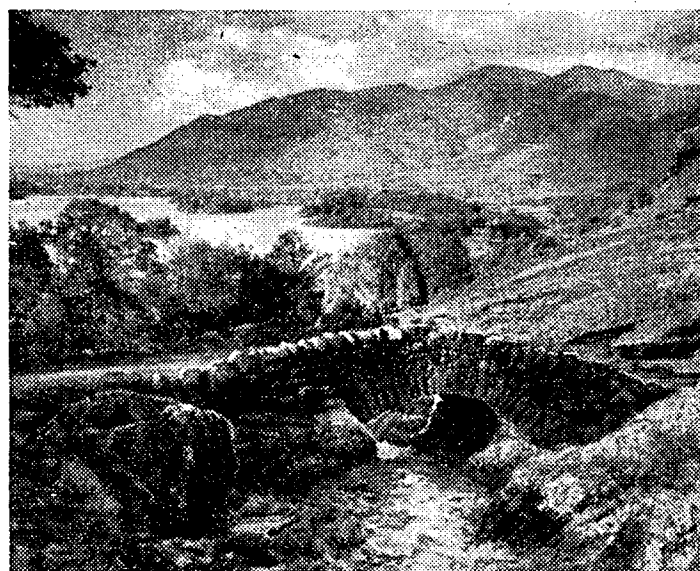
NATIONAL COAL BOARD engineers have just installed an electric pump capable of dealing with 900 gallons of water a minute in an old shaft at Town Head Colliery, West Auckland. This, with another pump of similar capacity, will work 24 hours a day in an effort to make possible the working of 15 million tons of coking coal which has become submerged.

It is hoped to pump dry the underground reservoir which has formed, extending four and a half miles by two miles between Evenwood and Bishop Auckland, in County Durham.

## IN HONOUR OF BACH

To mark the bicentenary of the death of J. S. Bach, the German Society for Musicology is holding from July 16 to 20 an International Congress in Lüneburg, where he went to school from 1700 to 1703. This is the first event of its kind to take place in Germany since the war.

In addition to lectures by leading German and foreign musicologists, the programme will include a performance of the St Matthew Passion under Professor Richard Liesche, with the choir of Bremen Cathedral, and the Symphony Orchestra of Radio Hamburg.



OUR HOMELAND Ashness Bridge, Derwentwater, with Skiddaw in the distance.



## Health in a Mine

TESTS to discover the exact effect on gold-miners of working at great depths are to be carried out in an underground laboratory at Witwatersrand, South Africa.

The laboratory is to be established 7000 feet down in the City Deep mine, which is itself well over 7500 feet deep.

The gold-seekers wish to go lower still, but they must find out how heat at such depths affects the health of workers, both native and white. For the deeper one penetrates the Earth's crust the hotter the air becomes, because one is drawing slightly nearer the Earth's central fires.

In the subterranean laboratory down the City Deep mine, tests will be made to find if this underground heat has the same effect on natives as on Europeans, and for each test natives from different parts of Africa will be selected.

The tests will be carried out by scientists working under Dr Cyril Wyndham of the Institute for Medical Research of Johannesburg.

## WOMEN AT WIMBLEDON

ON Friday and Saturday of this week (June 16-17), the singles and doubles matches in the Wightman Cup are to be played at Wimbledon.

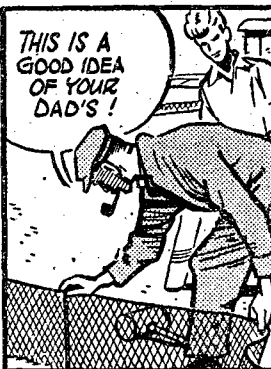
It is 27 years since the first games in this annual contest were fought out between the best women tennis players of America and England, and not since 1930 have our girls lifted the trophy. In recent years America has been supreme in women's tennis. And, much as we should like to see it otherwise, there seems little likelihood of the spell being broken this year, for Mrs Du Pont, Mrs. Todd, and the Misses Brough, Hart, and Moran form one of the most invincible teams ever seen on the world's tennis courts.

The Wightman Cup was presented by Mrs Hazel Wightman, a former American tennis champion, in 1923, to commemorate the visit to the States of an English women's team.

## Steps to Sporting Fame



Left-handed bat John Dewes, of Cambridge University, Middlesex, and England, first learned from his father the importance of keeping the ball low.



On a stretch of grass Mr Dewes had a small area marked off with a wire fence only a few inches high. If John hit the ball over this fence he had a long walk to retrieve it.



John Dewes has stepped from success to success. At Aldenham School he was captain of cricket and hockey and at Cambridge he has been awarded blues for both games.

## John Dewes



Against the West Indians last month he shared in a record Cambridge opening stand of 343 with Don Sheppard. When John leaves Cambridge he will go to Tonbridge School as a master.

## Footballers Off to Rio

NEXT Monday (June 19) seventeen of England's finest footballers will fly to Brazil, there to join four other English Soccer players now touring Canada and the States. The complete party of 21 will then start to prepare for the matches at Rio de Janeiro for the World Cup.

The series begins on June 25, and England will be called upon to meet Spain, United States, and Chile. Twelve other countries will contest the other three sections of the preliminary tournament and the four winners will then play off the semi-finals. The finalists will meet for the honour of becoming World Soccer Champions.

Our footballers will have their first chance of playing in the huge new stadium specially built at Rio to seat 155,000 spectators, and one of its features will certainly come strange to them—the playing pitch is surrounded by a moat, three yards wide, to prevent the crowd from encroaching.

Conditions are so different in Brazil that our players will find it difficult to acclimatise themselves. Grounds are sun-baked and the heat is likely to prove a serious handicap to men used to playing mostly in winter. However, we know that Billy Wright and his men will do their utmost to win the magnificent Jules Rimet Cup which will be presented after the final on July 18th.

## PERUVIANS LEARN ENGLISH

PERU is rapidly learning to speak English. Established in 1938, with only three students, the Peruvian-American Cultural Institute of Lima now has 2500 students of English, and also a summer school which more than 100 teachers attend each year.

This "good neighbour" centre, as it is called, is bringing Peruvians into closer contact and understanding with the people of the United States of America in particular, and similar institutes have been founded in Colombia, Chile, and Brazil.

## NEW LIGHT ON DARKEST AFRICA

EXPLORING in great libraries and among old archives, though without danger, can be as exciting for those who know what they are hunting for as exploring unknown lands.

Such an "expedition," consisting of two men, has just returned to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, after setting out for Europe last year—as recorded in the C.N.—to find out more about the early history of white men in southern Africa.

Searching among old documents in libraries at Lisbon, the Vatican, and elsewhere, these two literary explorers often found themselves carried away into the past to visualise a mighty African Emperor of whom very little is known, the Monomatapa, "Lord of the Water-Elephants"—as the Bantus called hippopotami—who, living in barbaric splendour, surrounded by slaves and wives, enriched by the gold from his mines, ruled a vast territory in what is now Mashonaland and Portuguese East Africa. They saw these great black kings—all entitled Monomatapa—visited by Roman Catholic missionaries who dared to venture into the mighty presence in his Zimbabwe (capital) bringing the message of Christianity.

That was in the 16th and 17th centuries, before the black empire of the Monomatapas fell to pieces because of rebellions, and their peoples were subdued by Matabele warriors, and then by white men.

The expert who has been making these discoveries is Dr Axelsson, Editor of the Central African Archives. He was accompanied by Mr W. B. Carr who has taken over 20,000 micro-film photographs of documents during their eight-month visit to England, Paris, Rome, Spain, and Portugal. Copying all these documents, said Dr Axelsson, would have taken more than one man's lifetime.

## River Code

THE Thames Conservancy Board have just issued a sixteen-page "rule of the river" booklet. This water-highway code is being distributed to more than 4000 boat owners registered with the Board, in order to familiarise them with river etiquette. Its issue has been prompted by users' complaints that their boats have been swamped and damaged by other vehicles. The most common offence is excessive speeding by motor launches.

These records show what brave and determined efforts the early Jesuits and Dominicans made to convert the subjects of the Monomatapas, in spite of the fact that in 1561 the Monomatapa gave orders for a Jesuit missionary and his converts to be strangled.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans in southern Africa. Sofala, on the south-east coast, was visited by Peroda Covilhams in 1480, seventeen years before Vasco da Gama sailed to India via the Cape, and the first Portuguese settlement was made at Sofala in 1505.

It was the port to which gold was brought from the interior, and so impressed were these early colonists by the quantity of this gold that they thought this must be the land of Ophir, where King Solomon of the Old Testament obtained his wealth. So they called their first fort Ophir. They thought, too, that a river to their south called Sabi had been named after the Queen of Sheba, who, they imagined, had founded the powerful lineage of the Monomatapas.

Dr Axelsson's discoveries will shed much new light on the history of these early European pioneers.

## THE MERCHANT OF VENICE—Picture Version of Shakespeare's Popular Drama



Portia and Nerissa hurried back to Belmont to be there, dressed as ladies again, when their husbands arrived. For the husbands, unaware that the lawyer who had saved Antonio's life was Portia, and that the clerk was Nerissa, had given their rings to the merry pair. On nearing home Portia said: *That light we see is burning in my hall. How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.*



They were welcomed by Lorenzo and Jessica, Shylock's daughter, who had eloped with him. Soon Bassanio, Gratiano, and Antonio arrived, and it was not long before Nerissa was quarrelling with her husband about his ring. By yonder moon I swear you do me wrong: In faith, I gave it to the judge's clerk, cried Gratiano. You swore to me, when I did give it you, That you would wear it till your hour of death, exclaimed Nerissa, pretending to be angry.



Now, by this hand, I gave it to a youth, A kind of boy, a little scrubbed boy, No higher than thyself, the judge's clerk, A prating boy, that begg'd it as a fee: I could not for my heart deny it him," protested Gratiano. But Portia also reproached him, saying: You were to blame, I must be plain with you To part so slightly with your wife's first gift: A thing stuck on with oaths upon your finger And so riveted with faith unto your flesh.



She turned to Bassanio and went on, I gave my love a ring and made him swear Never to part with it: and here he stands; I dare be sworn for him he would not leave it. Nor pluck it from his finger, for the wealth That the world masters. Bassanio looked very uncomfortable and Gratiano declared: My lord Bassanio gave his ring away Unto the judge that begg'd it. Portia cried: What ring gave you, my lord? Not that, I hope, which you received of me.

The final instalment of this great Shakespeare drama will appear next week



The Children's Newspaper, June 17, 1950

## A complete short story of

Morgan of the Mounties

## THE TICKING CLUE

by Frank S. Pepper



CORPORAL TIM MORGAN, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, sprang to his feet as he heard someone running breathlessly up the steps to his office in Hemlock Valley.

The door burst open and in stumbled the most extraordinary-looking man Tim had ever seen in his life. His face was streaked with dirt. He wore a shirt, socks, boots, and a skirt made of sheets of newspaper tied round his waist with string.

"Who are you?" cried Tim. "Believe me or believe me not," panted the intruder wildly, "I'm Zack Craddock, the mailman." Tim peered more closely at him.

"So you are!" he exclaimed, recognising the features under the dirt. "But what happened? Why are you dressed like that? Where's your mail van?"

"I was held up!" cried Zack. "Some crook stole my van—and my uniform!"

In spite of the seriousness of the situation Tim could not help roaring with laughter at the sight of Zack in his newspaper skirt.

"What's so funny?" demanded Zack angrily. "This newspaper is no joke—it's draughty!"

Tim grew sober.

"Anything valuable in the van?"

"Two bags of registered mail. And that ain't all!" cried Zack. "When he took my uniform he took my watch as well."

"That noisy old turnip?" chuckled Tim. "It had a tick like a grandfather clock."

"It kept good time for thirty years, and I want it back," Zack said indignantly. "Say, why did he have to take my uniform? Why wasn't he content with stealing the van?"

"Simple," Tim said. "It'd look kind of suspicious to see a man in ordinary clothes driving a mail van, but in a uniform no one would suspect anything wrong." Tim strode to the telephone on the wall.

"Hey!" protested Zack. "How long do I have to stand around here like this? I'm freezing!"

"I have to make one or two phone calls," Tim told him, "then we'll find you some clothes. Can you describe what this character looks like?"

"No," confessed Zack. "He had a handkerchief over his face."

Corporal Tim called his headquarters and spoke to Sergeant Harding, who undertook to alert the whole area and have every road watched for the missing van.

NEXT he called the Hemlock Valley storekeeper and asked him to spread the news, for the store was the main centre of gossip, and the storekeeper had only to tell a few of his customers that Corporal Tim needed help for the story to be spread

to every corner of the Valley within an hour or two.

Tim was the friend of everyone in Hemlock Valley. It was only this that made it possible for him to carry out his job.

Tim had a shrewd feeling that if he did succeed in getting on this track of the missing van it was more likely to be through the help of his friends in the valley than through anything Sergeant Harding could do in the official way.

Tim found some clothes for Zack to wear, and had just got him fitted out when the telephone rang. It was the storekeeper.

"Tim? Sam Hollins was just in. He was along the road a piece when he saw an empty van standing below Bluestone Ridge."

Tim thanked him and drove out to the place with Zack. The van was still there, with empty mailbags and their torn-up contents scattered about.

"Doesn't look as if he had another car waiting. He must have headed somewhere on foot, so he probably hasn't gone far," Tim decided.

He stood thinking for a while,

his mind forming a mental picture of the scattered homesteads of the district.

At last he set off along a narrow, winding track, followed by Zack. The path led them through the trees to a clearing in which there lay a log cabin.

Smoke was rising from the chimney.

"I decided to try this place first because I figured that none of the regular folk in the valley could be responsible," Tim told Zack. "This is an old hunter's cabin that's been empty for months, so it was a likely hide-out."

"Sure!" agreed Zack. "It isn't empty now."

When Tim knocked on the cabin door it was opened by a scowling man in blue overalls. Tim introduced himself.

"Guess you must be new here," Tim said. "I know everyone in the valley, but I've never seen you before."

THE man was looking at him with a peculiar, strained expression, watching him intently.

"Moved in just a week ago," said.

"We're looking for someone who drove a mail van up under the Ridge and abandoned it," Tim said. "Have you seen or heard anything?"

"Not a thing," the man assured him, still staring hard. "I haven't been out of here all morning."

"Seen any strangers around?" asked Tim.

"Not a soul. No one has been up this way," the man answered sullenly.

"Mind if we come in and look round?" Tim asked. "The man we're after may have got in here without you seeing him. He may be hiding somewhere."

"Come right in. Look wherever you like," invited the man, following Tim with his eyes.

The cabin had two rooms, a living-room, littered with canned foods, dirty dishes, and hunting gear, and an untidy bedroom with one cupboard.

Tim walked round behind the man's back and spoke in a normal voice.

"Where did you hide the stuff you took from the van?" he asked.

THE man gave no sign of having heard. Zack looked at Tim in astonishment.

"It's all right. He can't hear what I'm saying—he's deaf. I guessed that from the way he stared at me—he lip-reads," said Tim.

"Well I'll be hornswoggled!" exclaimed Zack.

"Does he look anything like the man who held you up?" asked Tim.

"Could be. I wouldn't swear to it," confessed Zack.

"Then the only way we can prove anything is by finding the stuff," said Tim.

He searched the living-room thoroughly, but there was nothing to be found there.

He tried the bedroom. He looked under the bunk; he stamped heavily on the floor to test whether any of the boards were loose, but they were solid. He inspected the cupboard. A few worn garments were hanging inside.

THERE was nowhere else to look. Everything appeared to be in order, yet Tim had an uncanny

Continued on page 10



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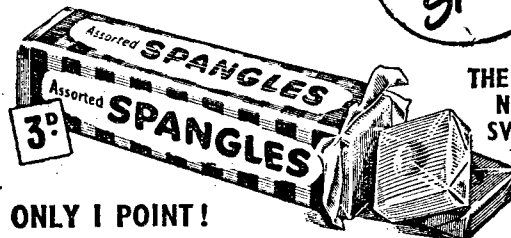
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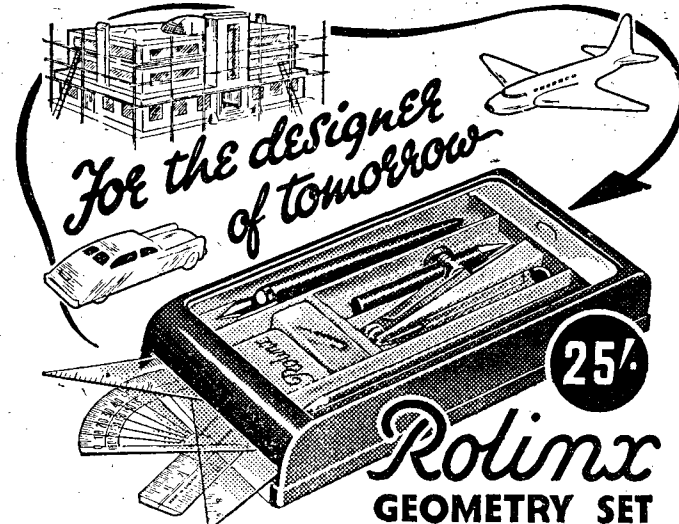
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# MORGAN OF THE MOUNTIES

Continued from page 9

feeling that there was something very, very odd about the room. He wondered what it was.

Suddenly he realised that he could hear a noise that had no right to be there.

Tim opened the door of the cupboard again. He stepped inside it, turning his head from side to side. Then he swung his foot and delivered a powerful kick.

The solid-looking back wall burst open. It was made of nothing more than flimsy plywood.

From behind the false back tumbled Zack's uniform and a kitbag crammed and spilling over with articles taken from the bags of registered mail!

LATER, when Sergeant Harding came down to Hemlock Valley to collect the prisoner, he shook his head at Corporal Tim.

"You took a very serious chance, smashing open the back of that cupboard," he said gravely. "Supposing there had been nothing behind it."

"There had to be," Tim assured him. "One thing struck me as very strange—I could hear a ticking noise all the time, yet there wasn't a clock anywhere in the cabin. And the noise sounded loudest when I stood inside the cupboard. It was Zack's watch, inside his uniform. It was a dead give away. But the thief couldn't hear it—he's deaf!"

Another story of Morgan of the Mounties will appear next week.

## In Unmapped Australia

A VENTURESOME journey into unexplored areas of Central Australia will be undertaken in July by four men. Leaving Gibb River in the Northern Territory, they will push into an unknown area of 200 square miles for three months.

Led by Mr E. G. Donkin, hunter and explorer, the expedition's primary object will be an investigation of native life and a ground survey of an area hitherto unmapped. Mr H. Coate, another member of the party, is one of the few men in Australia who understands the Aboriginal dialect in the area; he has explored similar areas with the head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney (Professor

Elkin). A surveyor-geologist from the Department of Mineral Resources will accompany the party, and a Sydney company will fly a cameraman to Gibb River to film all phases of the exploration.

All supplies will be dropped from aircraft. Because of the rugged terrain and numerous deep valleys, the party will travel much of the area by foot, making a close scrutiny of mineral resources and the suitability of the area for future settlement.

The flying doctors of the Australian inland are welcoming the expedition; they say present maps are inaccurate and in many cases show rivers which do not exist.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Treasure in the Garden

GOSH! That was a good story!" said Brian as he put down his book. "I wish we could find some treasure."

Well, you never know," said Daddie. "I wouldn't be at all surprised if you found some in that space at the bottom of the garden."

Janet and Brian's eyes gleamed at the thought, and they dashed off with their spades.

They had dug a fair amount of ground when it was time for lunch.

"Any luck?" asked Daddie.

"Afraid not," said Janet. "I don't think there can be any there."

When lunch was finished

Daddie said he was going into the garden—"for a breath of air." Shortly afterwards the children saw him coming away from the "treasure plot."

They began digging again. Suddenly Brian gave a cry.

"Look! There's a small box."

"It's our treasure!" cried Janet excitedly. "Do open it!"

Brian undid the paper and took the lid off the box. There, inside, were two sixpences.

"There's a letter, too," said Brian. "Dear Janet and Brian," it ran. "This is the treasure I meant you to find. Thank you for digging this piece of ground. I want to plant seeds in it. Daddie."

"Oh, 'twill spoil my suit," he cried;

Then a foxglove he espied, And most wisely crept inside Till the rain was over!

### Taking Shelter

MASTER BEE went out one day

In his velvet coat so gay, But it rained, I grieve to say, Splashing through the clover.

"Oh, 'twill spoil my suit," he cried;

Then a foxglove he espied, And most wisely crept inside Till the rain was over!

### A PRAYER

**ALMIGHTY GOD**, we thank Thee for this new day, Thine own gift to us. Help us to spend it as for Thee. Continue to us Thy loving kindness.

Bless us this day in our work and play, and grant that our friendships may be purified by friendship with Thee.

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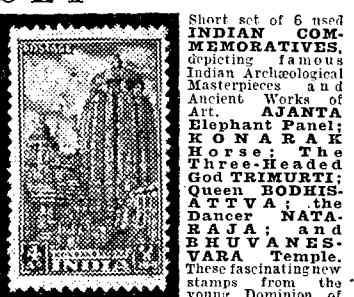
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# GENESIS FOR CHILDREN

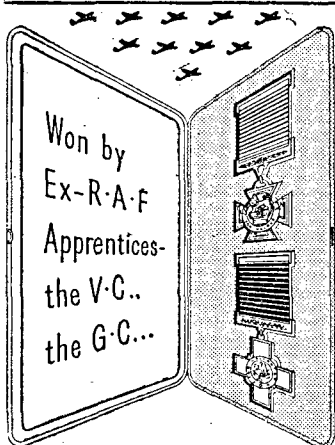
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## Putting Their Best Fin Forward

MANY boys and girls have discovered the fascination of keeping an aquarium at home. There are in Britain 160 Aquarists' societies, some of whom, as well as their individual members, are competing at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London, on June 15, 16, and 17.

There over 1500 fish and reptiles of many kinds will gaze in wonder at the thousands of different kinds of humans who will come to see them.

Many fish-breeders from all over Britain have entered their scaly friends for this great show of tropical and cold-water fish, the youngest competitor being five years of age and the oldest 75. There are some strange exhibits, including an American Wagtail which brings forth its young alive; and the Siamese fighting fish which, only 2½ inches long, is a spiteful creature, for it not only fights other males, but attacks its wife. There are, too, Angel Fish, Sword-tails, Sailfin Mollies, dainty Black Widows, and, of course, the good old goldfish.

Reptiles are shown by the Herpetological Society: baby crocodiles, pythons, poisonous vipers, salamanders, frogs, toads, tortoises, and the Tropical Clawed Toad.

Finally, there are millions of humbler creatures—common waterfleas and white worms, whose rôle is to feed the more interesting occupants of the glass tanks.

## WELL BOWLED, LAKER!

PLAYING for England against The Rest in a trial match at Bradford, Jim Laker, the Surrey and England bowler, had the amazing analysis of eight wickets for two runs.

On a sticky pitch the young batsmen (four of them from Oxford and Cambridge Universities) found Laker's off-spin bowling almost unplayable, and the whole side was out for 27 runs in less than two hours.

Laker's feat is outstanding in first-class cricket. To find anything approaching it we must look back to 1883 when E. Peate of Yorkshire took eight wickets for five runs against Surrey. In 1896 G. A. Lohmann took eight South African wickets for seven runs in a Test Match at Port Elizabeth.

Laker was born 28 years ago within a stone's throw of his recent triumph. His first coaching was given to him at the age of four by his aunt.

## Paper Guides

THE authorities of Hampton Court Palace have followed the excellent plan now growing up in places of fame and beauty of selling a pictorial guide. Over half a million people went to Henry VIII's great palace last year, so the new shilling guide, which is most attractively produced, should have a ready sale.

It does not always suit a visitor to have to look as well as listen to an official who says his piece and then passes on. The paper guide can be a silent and informative companion, and also a pleasant souvenir of a memorable day.

## FIFTY YEARS OF FEDERATION

WHEN England's Test cricketers visit the Antipodes towards the end of this year, they will most probably see something of the great celebrations, now in preparation, for the jubilee anniversary of Australian Federation.

To quote the words of Mr R. G. Menzies, Australia's Prime Minister: "On January 1, 1951, Australia will celebrate fifty years of nationhood. The jubilee will mark a most important and eventful period in the history of this country."

The celebrations will be nationwide, and on a big scale, in keeping with the spirit of carnival which Australians possess and enjoy.

In July 1900, Queen Victoria put her signature to the Act of the British Parliament which, from January 1, 1901, gave Australia federation and nationhood. The first Federal Parliament met on May 9, 1901. Mr W. M. Hughes, still hale and hearty, and a Federal M.P., was a member of that original and historic assembly.

## Excavators' Workshop

ARCHAEOLOGISTS excavating the Roman villa at Lullingstone, Kent, have set up a field-work centre at Lullingstone Castle, equipped with heating, lighting, and "cooking" facilities. It is a thirty-foot, brick-built barn, and is the first archaeological workshop of its kind adjoining a site. All the finds will be brought to the centre to be sorted, classified, listed, and treated by technicians.

Mr Ernest Greenfield and Mr Edwyn Birchenough, two members of the Darent Valley Archaeological Research which pioneered the excavation, have carried out the conversion of the barn with three or four helpers in their spare time during the last six months.

Experts have started work there on such tasks as washing and sketching pottery sherds, sorting and preserving wall plaster fragments by boiling them in paraffin wax, and cleaning glass and coins.

## PAGEANT AT PENSHURST

GHOSTS of the past will seem to walk at beautiful and historic Penshurst Place, Kent, when 30 London art students go down there on June 16 and 17 to put on a costume pageant in the great hall in aid of Penshurst Church funds.

Their show will consist of some 20 episodes of everyday life at various periods of English history.

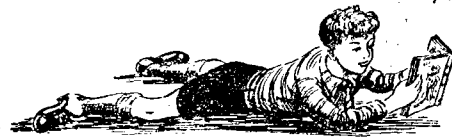
The students belong to the L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts, who study theatrical costumes and their design, and they have themselves designed and made the costumes they will wear.

The great hall at Penshurst will make a fine background for the display. Among the scenes will be medieval hawking, a 15th-century joust, an Elizabethan pavane (a slow and stately dance), Restoration and Regency scenes, a Victorian croquet party, and, in startling contrast, modern sunbathing.

## Boys and Girls!

Here are some  
jolly good books

- Violet Needham THE BETRAYER . . . . . 8/6
- "Sapper" BULLDOG DRUMMOND . . . . . 6/-
- BOY'S BOOK OF CRICKET for 1950- . . . . . 10/6
- STAMP COLLECTING for BOYS & GIRLS . . . . . 5/-



... and here is where to get them

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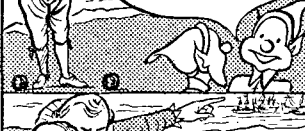
**CAPPIT:** A game for 2-4 players, who try to "Catch and Cap" their opponents. As easy as ludo, but how much more exciting! 7/6

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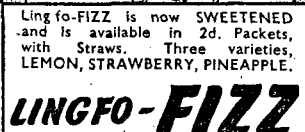
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DOES HE KNOW  
THE ARMADA  
IS IN SIGHT?



TIME TO DRINK  
MY LINGFO-FIZZ



—AND STILL BE FRESH  
ENOUGH TO BEAT  
THE SPANIARDS!  
CHEERS FOR  
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## THE BRAN TUB

### A Trier

OLD SKINFLINT was arguing with the taxi driver about the fare. "Don't tell me that," said Skinflint. "I haven't been riding in taxis for twenty years for nothing."

"You're right, guv'nor," replied the driver. "But it's not because you haven't tried."

### Mean Behaviour

A DEMON fast bowler named Mean, caused a panic on our village green. He broke several stumps, gave the batsmen the jumps, and then finally flattened the screen.

### Counting Sheep

A FRIEND asked Farmer Giles how many sheep he possessed. "If you take a quarter of the number and add to that one-third of the number, and then take ten from the result," he replied, "you will have just half the number of sheep in my flock." How many sheep were there?

Answer next week

### A Rhymed Riddle

WHAT has four legs but cannot walk nor run? This must seem strange to you, and everyone; But I will tell you why it is not able To walk at all—because it is a table!

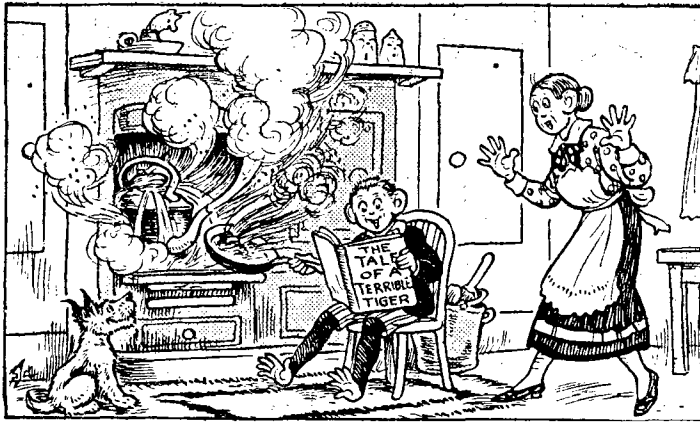
### Countryside Flowers

THE pretty, diminutive yellow blossoms of Bird's-foot Trefoil, often called Tom Thumb's or Lady's Shoes and Slippers, are found everywhere. They grow in clusters of two to twelve, at the end of slender, creeping stems. Often the dainty yellow flowers are splashed with red.

When the petals have dropped and long, pointed seed pods remain, several clustering together bear a strong resemblance to a bird's foot. Hence the name, Bird's-foot Trefoil.



## One Thing at a Time, Jacko



"TAKE your nose out of that book for a moment and keep your eyes on these things," said Mother Jacko, as she went out of the kitchen. "Uh, uh," mumbled Jacko, immersed in the adventures of the "Terrible Tiger," and not hearing a word that was said. He was still immersed in his book, and a cloud of steam and smoke, when Mother Jacko returned. At first it seemed as though the whole stove was afire, but it looked worse than it actually was. What Mother Jacko said, and did, is nobody else's business.

### Steep

HE had called on his tailor with a complaint. "Isn't this bill rather steep?" he demanded. "You should know, best, sir," replied the tailor. "It was run up by you."

### Meet Mr Phtholagnyrrh

WHEN Mr Turner received a letter addressed to Mr Phtholagnyrrh he was inclined to return it to the postal authorities. But then he realised that it was from an old school-friend, and that the weird-looking name was really his. It was his friend's little joke.

This is how he arrived at the spelling:

The phth was t as in phthisis; the olo was ur as in colonel; the gn as n as in gnat; the yrrh was er as in myrrh.

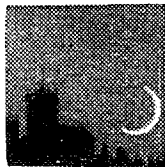
### Riddle-my-Name

MY first's in turbo, not in jet, My next in volley, not in let; My third is in both dip and dive, My fourth in eager and alive; My fifth's in tramp, but not in hike, My sixth in engine and in bike; My seventh's in both Cub and Scout; My last's in tickle, not in trout. And here's a boy, you'd almost say, Who rode upon a stack of hay!

Answer next week

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars and Saturn are in the south-west. In the morning Venus and Jupiter are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 10.30 on Saturday evening June 17.



### Poor Percy

THE bore was gushing on and on non-stop like bubbling fountains. "And you should try to see," he said. The famous Catskill Mountains.

Poor Perce could not resist the chance.

"Well, thanks for that advice. I've not seen that particular feat; But I have seen them kill mice."

### Farmer Gray Explains

"Food!" clamours Master Cuckoo. From a tree stump in the garden, Master Cuckoo announced that he was hungry.

"He looks quite attractive now," said Don, admiring the bird's barred plumage. "Different to the spiky creature he was while in the hedge-sparrows' nest. At that moment a wagtail appeared and fed Master Cuckoo a titbit.

"It must be another cuckoo," remarked Ann, noticing the wagtail. "It can't be the one which the hedge-sparrows reared."

"It probably is," said Farmer Gray, overhearing Ann. "Young cuckoos are usually clamouring for food. Other birds seem oddly fascinated by their appeals. In consequence young cuckoos are often fed by birds other than their foster parents."

### More Don'ts

Do not venture out of your depth when swimming.  
Do not sunbathe too long at one period.  
Do not eat strange berries.

### Disturbing

THE lecture was in progress when the professor noticed a student who appeared rather drowsy.

"You can't sleep in here," he said sharply.

"I could, sir, if you would speak a little more quietly," said the student.

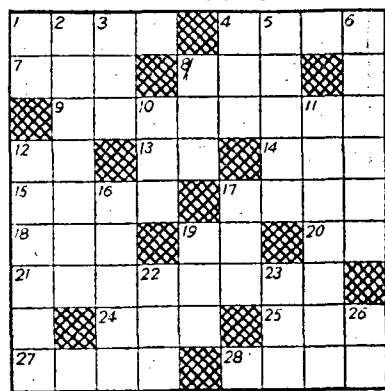
## Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Free from danger. 4 A station for troops. 7 To be bound to pay. 8 To resound discordantly. 9 One who follows a party. 12 All correct.\* 13 French for and. 14 This expresses denial. 15 To bevel out a hole in metal. 17 The head. 18 A house for the lodging of travellers. 19 Pennsylvania.\* 20 Preposition. 21 Understood only by the initiated. 24 An animal's lair. 25 A limb. 27 A big plant. 28 In addition.

Reading Down. 1 In this manner. 2 Recovers consciousness. 3 Supplied with food. 4 A vehicle. 5 A scene of conflict. 6 Wooden shoe raised on an iron ring. 8 High-speed type of plane. 10 Edge of a garment. 11 Heads. 12 The East. 16 The positive pole. 17 Equality. 19 An enclosure for cows or sheep. 22 Driving point in golf. 23 Unwell. 26 To set out. Asterisks indicate abbreviations.

Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, June 17, 1950



## Tongue Twister

THE critical cricket critic of Cricklewood criticised the critic's criticism of the cricket at Criccieth.

## Last Week's Answers

Addition Sum 1604  
4448  
3947  
9999

## Shy Flowers:

Rose, pink, aster, mallow, hemlock, lupin.



Did you **MACLEAN** your teeth today?



They're  
worth  
saving

**MACLEANS**

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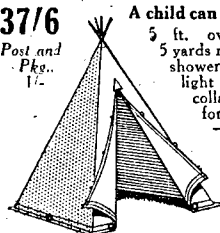
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Any weather—anywhere

A 4-Pole

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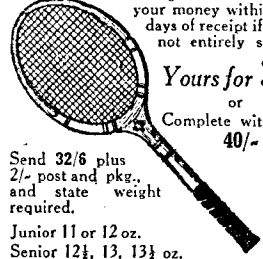
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